

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1(original). A polymeric film having linear tear properties, the film having been produced by blowing or casting and comprising a layer of a blend of a cyclic olefin copolymer and a polyethylene.

2(original). A film according to claim 1, wherein the cyclic olefin copolymer has a glass transition temperature T_g of greater than 30°C.

3(currently amended). A film according to claim 1 ~~or claim 2~~, wherein the cyclic olefin copolymer has a glass transition temperature T_g of less than 220°C.

4(currently amended). A film according to ~~any of the preceding claims~~ claim 1, wherein the cyclic olefin copolymer has a glass transition temperature of from 50 to 175°C.

5(currently amended). A film according to ~~any of the preceding claims~~ claim 1, wherein the cyclic olefin copolymer comprises a norbornene/ethylene copolymer.

6(original). A film according to claim 5, wherein the norbornene/ethylene copolymer contains from 20 to 80 weight percent of units derived from norbornene.

7(currently amended). A film according to ~~any of the preceding claims~~ claim 1, wherein the polyethylene comprises a linear low density polyethylene, a linear medium density polyethylene, or a low density polyethylene.

8(currently amended). A film according to ~~any of the preceding claims~~ claim 1, wherein the polyethylene has a density in the range of from 0.915g/cm³ to 0.935g/cm³.

9(currently amended). A film according to ~~any of the preceding claims~~ claim 1, wherein the blend comprises from 10 to 90 wt% of a cyclic olefin copolymer and from 90 to 10 wt% of a polyethylene.

10(currently amended). A film according to ~~any of the preceding claims~~ claim 1, including at least one further polymeric layer.

11(original). A film according to claim 10, including at least two further polymeric layers with the layer of the blend between two of such layers.

12(currently amended). A film according to claim 10 ~~or claim 11~~, wherein the further polymeric layer or layers comprise a polyolefin optionally containing units derived from vinyl acetate.

13(original). A film according to claim 12, wherein the polyolefin of the further polymeric layer or layers comprises low density polyethylene, linear low density polyethylene, linear medium density polyethylene, or an ethylene/vinyl acetate copolymer.

14(currently amended). A film according to ~~any of the preceding claims~~ claim 1, which has been produced by blowing and has expansion ratios in both the machine and transverse directions of up to 2:1.

15(currently amended). A film according to ~~any of claims 1 to 13~~ claim 1, which has been produced by casting.

Claim 16(canceled).

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17(currently amended). A package comprising a film according to ~~any of the preceding claims~~ claim 1 sealed around an article.

18(original). A package according to claim 17, which includes a breathable patch sealed thereto.

19(currently amended). A package according to claim 17 ~~or claim 18~~, wherein the article comprises medical equipment.

Claim 20(canceled).